

# People Select Committee

A meeting of People Select Committee was held on Monday, 14th March, 2022.

**Present:** Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair), Cllr Jean O'Donnell (Vice Chair), Cllr Pauline Beall (sub for Cllr Barry Woodhouse), Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr William Woodhead.

**Officers:** Katie Hindmarsh, Margie Stuart Piercy (HR, L &C), Rachel Harrison, Judy Trainer (DS).

**Also in attendance:** None.

**Apologies:** Cllr Lee Spence, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

**PEO  
37/21**      **Evacuation Procedure**

The Evacuation Procedure was noted.

**PEO  
38/21**      **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Pauline Beall declared an interest as a member of the Tees Credit Union.

**PEO  
39/21**      **Minutes**

AGREED That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**PEO  
40/21**      **Action Plan - Scrutiny Review of Disability Inclusive Borough**

The Select Committee received the action plan following approval of the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Disability Inclusive Borough.

Key issues discussed were as follows:

- It would also be beneficial to also offer any staff training and awareness raising sessions or e-learning opportunities to Elected Members
- Support for applying more than minimum standards required by legislation
- The need for clear milestones in implementing the proposed actions
- It was hoped that the signing posters might be adopted more widely in the community

AGREED That the Action Plan be approved.

**PEO  
41/21**      **Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Public Consultation**

The Select Committee received a progress update from the Scrutiny Review of Public Consultation.

Key issues discussed were as follows:

- The importance of sharing consultation feeding with Elected Members including feedback from BMBF engagement activities
- The benefit of periodic surveys involving a representative sample of the

residents

- Councillors can play a role promoting consultations through newsletters and ward surgeries

AGREED That the assessments of progress be confirmed.

**PEO 42/21 Progress Update - Carbon Monoxide Awareness**

The Select Committee received a progress update from the Scrutiny Review of Carbon Monoxide Awareness.

Members commented that it should be a requirement for carbon monoxide alarms to be installed in all new builds.

AGREED That the assessments of progress be confirmed.

**PEO 43/21 Scrutiny Review of Tees Credit Union**

The Select Committee received a presentation from Katie Hindmarsh on A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees and how this linked with the Select Committee review.

The presentation covered:

- A Fairer Stockton on Tees Framework Development
- Five key interventions:
  - o Tackle Borough-Wide Fundamental issues
  - o Reduce inequalities faced by disadvantaged communities
  - o Focus on deprived neighbourhoods – building on work started in Targeted Action Areas
  - o Better help for our most marginalised individuals
  - o Review our role as employer, commissioner and provider
- Borough-wide outcomes framework
- Overview of areas for consideration:
  - “Debt management and credit schemes, which tackle the issues faced by those most impacted by lack of credit, debt and economic exclusion”
    - o Links with the ‘Leaving Care Team’ to support adults transitioning from Children Services to Adult Services - Building credit history, options of specific loans to promote independence and setting up a home
    - o Links with SBC Client Financial Services - Providing support for individuals who have ‘managed’ bank accounts, guidance on bill payments, budgeting and online banking
    - o Temporary accommodation tenants/ Individuals leaving prison / Refugee and Asylum Seekers – difficulties setting up bank accounts with a temporary address and lack of ID, communication compiled in variety of languages to promote engagement
    - o Specific debt consolidation loans where the individual’s loan repayment contains an amount that is paid into TCU savings account, creating an amount that can be accessed at the end of the loan term
    - o Accessibility – Outreach in areas identified (North Thornaby, The Clarences and Central Stockton) – creating links with Community Partnerships, Inclusive Growth Strategy and the Employment and Training Hub

It was highlighted that Councillors could support the work of the Credit Union by becoming a member and that it would be useful to raised awareness with new Councillors after the local elections.

AGREED That the information be noted.

**PEO  
44/21**

**Chair's Update and Scrutiny Work Programme**

The Scrutiny Officer advised that the next meeting would be held on Monday 11 April 2022. A site visit to the Stockton branch of the Tees Credit Union would also be taking place on the same day at 11am.

AGREED That the Work Programme be noted.